

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 14086 061449Z  
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5243

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FOR AF/W

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIN  
SUBJECT: AIG CASE: LEFEVRE DETENTION

1. REQUEST PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO M.R. GREENBERG, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP. QUOTE: THANK YOU FOR YOUR CABLE OF NOVEMBER 30 CONCERNING THE AIIC SHARE VALUATION AND LEFEVRE DETENTION. I WAS AWAY FROM LAGOS ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS WHEN THE CAPITAL ISSUES COMMISSION (CIC) MADE KNOWN THE AIIC SHARE VALUATION AND WHEN LEFEVRE WAS DETAINED. MQR STAFF, HOWEVER, BEGAN WORKING ON BOTH PROBLMES IMMEDIATELY. RETURNING TO LAGOS OVER THE WEEKEND, I MEET WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER AND SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC) MEMBER GARBA OP MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 5. I REQUESTED THE IMMEDIATE RETURN OF LEFEVRE'S PASSPORT AND ALIEN REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE AS WELL AS A FULL EXPLANATION OF WHY HE WAS DETAINED. CONCERNING AIG, I EXPRESSED MY DISCOURAGEMENT OVER THE CIC'S SHARE VALUATION AND CONCURRENT DECEMBER 15 DEADLINE FOR THE SHARE TRANSFER WITHOUT CONSIDERING HIGH-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN YOUR COMPANY AND NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS AGREED TO BY THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT DURING US-NIGERIAN ECONOMIC TALKS ON NOVEMBER 7-9. TO MOVE THE CASE FORWARD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, I ASKED GARBA TO ARRANGE NEGOTIATION MEETINGS BETWEEN YOURSELF AND THE FEDERAL COMMISSIONERS FOR TRADE AND FINANCE

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BEFORE DECEMBER 15 IF POSSIBLE. BOTH COMMISSIONERS ARE SMC MEMBERS AND HEAD MINISTRIES WHICH MUST APPROVE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE SETTLEMENT PACKAGE. I ALSO REQUESTED ANNULMENT OR SUSPENSION OF THE DECEMBER 15 DEADLINE PENDING RESULTS OF SUCH MEETINGS.

2. GARBA REACTED POSITIVELY TO THE DEMARCHE AND SAID HE WOULD

DO HIS BEST TO ARRANGE MEETINGS, ANNUL OR SUSPEND THE DEADLINE,  
INVESTIGATE LEFEVRE'S ARREST AND RETURN HIS PAPERS.

3. TODAY I AM TRANSMITTING TO THE FMG A DIPLOMATIC NOTE PROTESTING LEFEVRE'S ARREST AND AN "AIDE-MEMOIRE" WHICH SUMMARIZES MY AIG PRESENTATION TO GARBA.

4. I EXPECT DEFINITE DATES FOR YOUR MEETINGS WITH THE FINANCE AND TRADE COMMISSIONERS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND WILL SEND YOU WORD THROUGH STATE DEPARTMENT CHANNELS.

5. ALTHOUGH I AM NOT CONVINCED THAT LEFEVRE'S DETENTION AND THE AIG CASE ARE CONNECTED, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE BOTH ISSUES.  
SINCERELY, DONALD EASUM, AMBASSADOR. UNQUOTE.  
EASUM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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